



2021 RINGNECK OUTLOOK

HUNT THE GREATEST IN SOUTH DAKOTA



SOUTH DAKOTA IS ENJOYING INCREASED PHEASANT ABUNDANCE

The 2020 pheasant season was spectacular in South Dakota, with hunters harvesting over 1.1 million birds. In addition to abundant bird numbers, hunters also enjoyed an extended season open until January 31, 2021 and took advantage of this opportunity harvesting over 27,000 birds in January alone! While 2020 was incredible, 2021 is shaping up to be even better!

MORE HABITAT FOR BIRDS

Habitat is key for enjoying great bird numbers now and for years to come. The Habitat Stamp went into effect July 1, 2020 and GFP has been putting these dollars to work. Habitat projects already completed include high-diversity grass seedings, woody habitat improvements and expanding the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to provide additional hunting access to more habitat.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

OCT. 16 - JAN. 31

TRADITIONAL PHEASANT HUNTING SEASON



9.14

Birds per Hunter

1,108,420

Pheasants Harvested

121,331

Total Hunters

HELP FROM MOTHER NATURE

Favorable weather conditions over the winter months has South Dakotans seeing birds in record numbers. While early season reports are positive, peak pheasant hatch takes place in the middle of June. If Mother Nature continues to be kind through the summer months, expect even more pheasants on the landscape by the start of the season!

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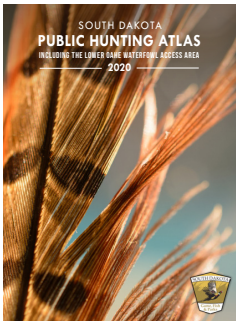
CONTROLLING PREDATORS FOR INCREASED NEST SUCCESS

In the last three years, the Nest Predator Bounty Program removed nearly 100,000 nest predators in the pheasant range and the program continued in 2021. Paying \$10 per-tail with a maximum payout of \$500,000, this program encouraged participants to continue trapping at high intensities during the primary nesting season. When predator removal is done in this manner, local duck and pheasant nest success has been positively influenced.

“Because of a mild winter, enhanced efforts on habitat management and intense predator control through the nest predator bounty program if the weather patterns hold, we should expect fantastic bird numbers for the 2021 pheasant season.”

Kevin Robling, GFP Secretary

WHERE TO HUNT



Great pheasant hunting means great hunting land as well. South Dakota has incredible amounts of quality public land across the landscape. On your hunt you'll find Game Production Areas, Walk-in Areas, Waterfowl Production Areas and more. These lands are open to public hunting and ready for hunters

to enjoy. Learn more about the lands in South Dakota at gfp.sd.gov/hunting-areas or pick up your Hunting Atlas at any license agent.



PREMIERE OUTDOOR DESTINATION

- » South Dakota is one of the few places in the world where you can bag the upland bird trifecta - sharp-tailed grouse, greater prairie chicken and pheasant - all on the same hunt!
- » Excellent walleye and panfishing on the Missouri River and in the Glacial Lakes region presents the perfect opportunity to rest your legs and wet some lines!
- » Many state parks offer camping sites, camping and modern cabins and lodge opportunities to complete your outdoor adventure as well as offer fun for the whole family!

PLAN YOUR GREATEST HUNT

Are you planning your hunt in South Dakota? We've got you covered!

Do-It-Yourself Adventure

Are you looking for a DIY adventure, but aren't sure where to start? South Dakota is home to abundant pheasant hunting lands and opportunities. It can be hard to narrow down where you want to go. Check out the pheasant distribution map to see where the primary range is found across South Dakota. You can also learn more about the different types of areas to hunt in South Dakota at travelsouthdakota.com/recreation/hunting/region-breakdowns.

Full-Service Experience

South Dakota is home to numerous hunting lodges and guided hunt opportunities. If you are looking for sure fire action, this could be the type of hunt for you! Learn more about lodges and guided hunts in South Dakota at travelsouthdakota.com/recreation/hunting/lodge-hunt.



Pheasant Distribution

Primary pheasant range is in central and eastern South Dakota, though there are pockets of excellent pheasant hunting in the western part of the state.

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